bringing comprehensive changes in the Representation of People Act keeping in view the corruption prevailing in politics and the increasing tendency of criminalisation of politics;

(b) whether Government propose to evolve a code of conduct in respect of elected representatives of people;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Government is continuously exploring ways and means of bringing about reforms in electoral laws especially with a view to making the electoral process clean and free from criminal and corrupt influences. In this regard, the Government has before it the recommendations made by different bodies/individuals like the Dinesh Goswami Committee, the Indrajit Gupta Committee, the Election Commission of India, the Law Commission of India, etc. and various proposals based on their recommendations are required to be discussed with the political parties at the appropriate time and concretized.

(b) to (d) The evolving of a Code of Conduct for legislators is a matter for the Legislatures and the Government has no intention to interfere in the matter.

Bifurcation of National Commission for SCs/STs

*398. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to bifurcate National Commission for SCs/STs into two separate Commissions;

(b) if so, the salient features of the decision;

(c) whether Government propose to extend the tenure of the Chairman and Members of the Commission till its bifurcation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been set up as per provision under article 338 of the Constitution. No decision has been taken to bifurcate the Commission.

Plans and schemes for assistance to disabled

*399. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the plans and schemes for giving assistance to the disabled;

(b) the amount allocated in the budget this year for the purpose;

(c) the utilisation so for; and

(d) the amount fixed for the North-Eastern States and the manner in which it will be distributed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) Six National Institute are functioning in the country for providing specialized manpower development and rehabilitation services in different disabilities. Five Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) as extended arms of the existing national level institutions and four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for spinally injured have also been set up. A National Programme of Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD), a State Sector Scheme has been launched for providing hierarchical services delivery system starting with grass-root level. For ensuring decentralized availability of rehabilitation services, more than 100 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres are also being set up in the country.

To promote self-employment and for extending soft loans for pursuing professional/technical education and assisting technical and entrepreneurial skills to persons with disabilities, the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) has been set up with an authorized share capital of Rs. 400 crores.

The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) is manufacturing and providing various types of aids and appliances for persons with disabilities.